श्रीमती चन्द्रकला पांडे: अगर उनको कोई बीमारी होती है तो उस बीमारी के इलाज के लिए व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए।...(व्यवधान)...

श्री वी॰ हनुमंत राव: मैं मंत्री जी से कहना चाहता हूं कि जब तक बड़े-बड़े ग्राउंड्स नहीं होंगे जो हाई स्कूल्स हैं, इंजीनियरिंग कॉलेज हैं, वे किराए के मकानों में स्कूल चलाते हैं लेकिन प्ले ग्राउंड की ओर कोई तवज्जह नहीं देते हैं — मैं चाहता हूं कि जो लोग स्पोर्ट्स के लिए ग्राउंड की व्यवस्था कर सकते हैं, उन्हीं को परमिशन मिलनी चाहिए। इस तरह से स्पोर्ट्स को चांस मिलेगा। दूसरा, मैं यह कहना चाहता हूं।

श्री सभापति: दूसरा नहीं पूछना है। आप बैठिए। ...(व्यवधान)...

श्री वी॰ हनुमंत राव: Afro-Asian Games में इतने बड़े ग्राउंड्स तैयार करने ...(व्यवधान)..

श्री सभापति: आप बैठ जाइए।...(व्यवधान)...कोई जवाब नहीं आएगा। आप बैठ जाइए।.. (व्यवधान)...कोई जवाब नहीं आएगा। आप बैठिए। प्रश्न संख्या 495।

Withdrawal of Pakistani Troops from Siachen

*495. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether on the eve of the recent visit of Pakistan's President to New Delhi, Pak Foreign Minister again renewed the Pak offer of withdrawal of Pakistani troops from Siachen;

(b) if so, what was Government's reaction and response thereto;

(c) whether it is a fact that while India wants authentication of the maps or the actual ground position line before any pull back, Pakistan wants the pre-1972 troops positions to be recognized;

(d) whether the matter was discussed during the recent Pak President's visit to New Delhi; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) to (e) A statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) There have been reports of Pakistan Foreign Minister indicating Pakistan's willingness to withdraw its forces from Siachen area but linking it to certain unacceptable conditions.

(b) Does not apply.

(c) Our position on the issue is that the authentication of the present position has to be the first step, before any redeployment is considered.

(d) and (e) During Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf's visit to New Delhi from April 16-18-2005, it was agreed that the existing institutional mechanisms should convene discussions immediately with a view to finding mutually acceptable solution on the issue expeditiously.

SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Sir, during his recent visit, the Pakistan President had spoken about softening of hearts and opening of borders. Of course, we all want more people-to-people contact, more cultural and political exchanges, and closer trade and economic ties, yet we cannot afford to take any risks on national security.

In this context, I would like to know whether Siachin is of great strategic importance and withdrawal of troops from Siachin opens India to grave security risks. What specific steps are being taken to safeguard our national interests?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Sir, during the visit of the President of Pakistan recently, this matter did come up; but it came up in greater detail when I went to Pakistan and held talks with my counterpart, the Foreign Minister, Mr. Khurshid Kasuri, and during the meeting of our Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh and President Musharraf only a few days ago, the two Heads directed us that the Defence Secretaries of both the countries should meet within the month of May, latest by June, to tackle this problem to find a mutually-acceptable solution to both the issues with regard to Siachin. I only want to say that the Siachin ceasefire has now held for almost three years, and there is no real tension. We are all concerned with all the national intersts in this regard, and India's vital national interests will not be jeopardised in any way.

SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Sir, despite all the friendly talks and exchange of pleasantries with the Pakistan President, terrorists concentrations and camps remain intact along the borders and the LOC. May I

know whether any steps have been taken, or, whether there is any understanding to stop these activities?

MR. CHAIRMAN: Okay, that is enough.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Sir, there are only a few seconds left for the Question Hour to be over. I just want to say that the hon. Prime Minister did discuss this and brought this specific subject regarding the Joint Statement signed in Islamabad at the time of Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee's visit on the 6th of December, in which the Pakistan President had assured us that the soil of Pakistan would not be allowed to be used by terrorists to attack any country, or India. They have reiterated this and we have got the assurances.

A meeting took place between the hon. Prime Minister and General Musharraff in Jakarta recently. We are fully conscisous of this and we have been telling the Pakistanis time and again to dismantle these camps.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITEEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Indo-China Boundary Dispute

*481. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how far the talks between India and China have progressed to settle the boundary dispute between the two countries;

(b) the details of such talks;

(c) whether Government plan to take all the political parties into confidence before reaching a final agreement with China; and

(d) If not, the reasons behind it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) There have been five meetings so far between the Special Representatives of India and China on the boundary question. These talks